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Below is my written testimony for the WA State Building Codes Hearing:

I urge you to adopt the new building codes for residential buildings and multi-family homes three stories and below. I am a medical student at the Washington State University and a resident of Washington State since I was 13. I have not always been aware of how climate change is impacting our lives but especially with recent heat waves and wildfires, along with scholarly research endeavors on how climate change impacts health, I am determined to do what I can to speak up against climate change.

These codes are crucial to protect residents in affordable housing. I certainly understand the housing & affordable housing crisis - my own mother and many more in my community have been in danger of losing their homes due to astronomical rent prices. I understand that we need new homes. However, we need SAFE new homes. Low income residents and other underserved households cannot afford air conditioning for example. Children in homes with gas stoves have a 42 % increased risk of asthma symptoms. Heat and poor air quality will only increase in the future. Most dissenting views are concerned with the cost of heat pumps or other mandates that come with the building codes. However, without these policies that focus on how energy is efficiently used with heat pumps or electric stoves, etc., residents in affordable housing will be vulnerable to extreme heat and increased energy bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.